

# SECAF visits Balad Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. **Pamela Anderson**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne brought holiday greetings to the Airmen of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Dec. 18 and 19 and let them know that they are making a difference in the lives of Iraqi citizens.

"I want to pass on to the entirety of the 332nd and all its deployed units, thanks and a great holiday season from three grateful nations — the United States of America, the Iraqi Nation and the Afghani Nation," he said.

During his trip, Secretary Wynne visited various units on Balad including the 555th Fighter Squadron as well as Airmen who provide armed truck convoy security and retrofit add-on-armor kits to vehicles.

At the end of his whirlwind tour, the SECAF took time to answer some questions from Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson, 332nd AEW Public Affairs Office.

See SECAF, Page 9

**Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne signs a poster at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility after a ribbon cutting ceremony during his visit to Balad. For more information about the CASF see Page 5, *New CASF doors open.***



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

## Extraordinary care



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## Monster Garage in Iraq



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## Messages from home



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Photos by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

## 332nd AEW dines in

(Above) 1st Lt. Diliana Fuertes, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, greets the head table at the Air Force Dining-In, dressed as Mrs. Claus.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Vanessa Bibb, 332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron, and Capt. David McCoy, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, prepare to drink from the grog bowl.

## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

**Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan, 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander, talks with Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, and Col. Elisha Powell, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>





Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

**Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne meets with Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Keller and other Airmen from the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron during his visit to Balad Dec. 18 and 19.**

## Air Force leaders send Airmen holiday message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray:

"As 2005 draws to a close, we have the opportunity to reflect on the past year and prepare ourselves for 2006. For many of us, this season brings to mind a yearning for peace. Unfortunately, the enemies of peace are challenging those of us who promote liberty, tolerance and respect for human rights. That is why your service is vital to our nation. In this season of gift-giving, it is one of the greatest gifts you could bestow on your countrymen.

"We have seen this gift you have generously given — and not just to America, but to all nations. You brought food, shelter and security to those whose lives were devastated by the tsunami in Asia and the Indian subcontinent. You saved lives and restored services to those who felt the immense destruction of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You provided the conditions for the people of Afghanistan and Iraq to experience the gift of democracy. You have created the shield that protects America, flying countless sorties over our homeland. And you have given the gift of national security, by committing yourself to excellence in performing your duties in

countless other ways that do not always receive public recognition.

"This gift you give would not be possible without sacrifice. Whether active duty, Reserve, Guard, or civilian, you work under conditions that are very demanding. Some of you are separated from your families this holiday season, deployed to hazardous and austere locations. We are incredibly proud of you and your families, whose support makes your sacrifice possible.

"We are also filled with pride in those who have fallen this year while serving in our Air Force. We shall always remember the gift they gave, and keep their families in our hearts.

"But as we have given the gift of service to our country, we have received much in return. Sometimes, it has been a care package or kind note from a stranger. Or it has been the support of the communities that lie outside our gates. It has been the unspoken thanks in the exhausted eyes of someone evacuated from a disaster. But one thing is certain — we have received the gift of unwavering support from the people of this land.

"As the holidays approach, we urge all of you to reflect on the gifts you have given and received this year. We wish you the gifts of peace, health, and happiness in the coming year."

## BALAD AIR BASE NEWS NOTES

### USO tour visits Balad

The Hope & Freedom Tour 2005 will be at Holt Stadium today, doors open at 4:45 p.m. Artist scheduled to be on the tour are Lynlee Allen, Misty Cleveland, Al Franken, Karri Turner, Craig Morgan, Keni Thomas, Mark Wills and Soul Jahz.

### Salsa dancing

The last salsa dance of the year is scheduled to be held today at 8 p.m. in the H6 Recreation Tent.

### Holiday VTC

The 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron is offering holiday video teleconference call links with the following bases: Lackland and Wright-Patterson — Monday; Hill and Sheppard — Wednesday and Tinker — Friday. Individuals need to sign-up a day prior at the 332nd ECS building.

### Balad souvenirs on sale

The H6 Recreation Tent has 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing t-shirts \$8, and coins \$5, available for purchase. For more information visit the Rec. Tent.

### Cyber Café open

The Cyber Café is open and offering access to computers and phones 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### Educational opportunities

Individuals interested in earning college credit while deployed can schedule a College Level Examination Program test through the Balad Education Office. For more information, visit <http://intranet.blab.ds.af.mil/332%20SVS/Education%20Center.htm> or call 443-6953

### Reporting injuries

Injured Airmen who seek medical treatment must complete an Air Combat Command Form 164. This form to be turned into their supervisor and forwarded to the safety office. For more information, call 443-6111.

# Teaching young Airmen to lead

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

To enhance the career paths of senior airmen and below while at Balad the Redtail 5/6 began a Redtail 5/6 Airmen Development Seminar.

"Developing the future leaders of the Air Force is not a task that should be pushed to the side and attended to when we have spare time, it is a never ending process," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Darnell, Redtail 5/6 treasurer.

The three day RAD seminar is designed to provide young Airmen career guidance and mentorship.

"As first line supervisors, we are striving to prepare the next generation of Airmen to take over as the current staff and technical sergeants progress through the ranks or leave the Air Force," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Allen, Redtail 5/6 seminar administrator.

Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, opened the first RAD seminar, which included senior and chief master sergeants panel and segments taught by staff and technical sergeants from across the base. The seminar features discussions on the core values, leadership, the enlisted evaluation system, feedback, counseling, dress and appearance, relationships, discipline and recognition programs.

"We opened the RAD seminar to all senior airmen and below, because we found that many of these Airmen did not have a good grasp on this information," Sergeant Allen said.

Attendees can either be nominated by their chain of command or can volunteer to attend with their chain's approval, Sergeant Allen said. The class is run three hours each day of the seminar.

The format of the seminar encourages open discussion between students and instructors.

"We encourage interaction during the classes, so the Airmen are able to take away information they can relate to real world sit-

uations," Sergeant Darnell said. "We want to educate these Airmen and provide them the tools they will need to become strong leaders for the Airmen who will follow them."

Sergeant Allen said, "The Redtail 5/6 would like to thank the recent attendees for taking the time to come to the seminar. We enjoyed their participation and feedback on every subject. It gave us an insight that will serve as the key to improving this program."

Congratulations to the graduates of the first RAD seminar:

## **332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:**

Senior Airman Samuel Arpy

## **332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron:**

Airman 1st Class Hugh Balcktor

Senior Airman Jesus Davila-Vega

## **332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron:**

Airman 1st Class Eric Blodgett

Senior Airman John Kust

Airman 1st Class Chris Monroe

Senior Airman Rocky Tuvera

Senior Airman Patrick Walsh

## **332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron:**

Airman 1st Class Alejandro Duarte

Senior Airman Jeremy Lamblin

Senior Airman Bradley Mahoney

Senior Airman Brachett Pollard

Senior Airman Daniel Walker

## **332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group:**

Senior Airman Sharron Craft

Senior Airman April Ellis

## **732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron:**

Airman 1st Class Natalie Martinez

Senior Airman Joseluis Paucar

## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES TO ENJOY AT BALAD

### **Saturday events**

#### **H6 Recreation Tent**

Progressive bingo at noon

Texas Hold 'em at 2 p.m.

8 Ball Tournament at 2 p.m.

Chess Tournament at 3 p.m.

Ping Pong Tournament at 3 p.m.

Risk Tournament at 4 p.m.

Battleship Tournament at 4 p.m.

Spades Tournament at 5 p.m.

9 Ball Tournament at 5 p.m.

Progressive bingo at 6 p.m.

Christmas karaoke at 10 p.m.

#### **Worship services**

Protestant service at 8 p.m. in Town Hall

Catholic Mass at midnight in Town Hall

#### **Miscellaneous**

Geocaching party at 5 p.m. visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for information

#### **Sunday events**

#### **H6 Recreation Tent**

Texas Hold' em at 2 p.m.

8 Ball Tournament at 2 p.m.

Chess Tournament at 4 p.m.

Risk Tournament at 4 p.m.

Battleship Tournament at 5 p.m.

9 Ball Tournament at 5 p.m.

Wacky Christmas games at 8 p.m.

### **Worship services**

Protestant Liturgical Eucharist at 7:30 a.m. in the Air Force Theater Hospital

Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. at the Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant Contemporary, 11 a.m. at Town Hall

Protestant Traditional, 5:30 p.m. at Tuskegee Chapel

Hanukkah service, 6:30 p.m. at Provider Chapel

*(Editors note: Regular church services will also be offered. For a schedule, see Page 8, Balad AB Religious Schedule.)*





Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne along with service members from Balad Air Base and Logistical Support Area Anaconda pay respect to the flag as Senior Airman Laquetta Broome, 332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron, sings the national anthem at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility opening ceremony Monday.

# New CASF doors open

By Staff Sgt. **Tammie Moore**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The new 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility officially opened Monday, serving as a transitional point for those being medically evacuated from Iraq.

Construction on the \$85,000 building began in September.

"With the move into this new semi-hardened facility, we are continuing to improve the care we provide our wounded warriors," said Col. Elisha Powell, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander.

The new facility, which is designed to hold up to 100 patients, enables the CASF to serve two critical roles in theater.

"First, the primary mission of the CASF is to hold and stage patients for aeromedical evacuation," Colonel Powell said. "It is staffed by nurses, aerospace medicine technicians, physicians, life skills, dietary and pharmaceutical technicians. Together, these dedicated professionals ensure patients are prepared clinically and administratively for flight, care for them during

their stay and then carefully load them onto aircraft for their journey to definitive care or home base.

"The second vital function of the CASF is to serve as a throughput valve for the Air Force Theatre Hospital," Colonel Powell said. "If these patients had to stay here at Balad until fully recovered, the footprint of the hospital would be forced to grow astronomically. If not for the CASF, the hospital's capabilities would be overrun in only a few hours' time due to the steady influx of war casualties."

To improve support for patients at Balad, the new building features indoor latrines and showers. In addition, there is a patient breakroom with phones to call home, computers to allow patients to communicate via e-mail and a television.

"The biggest improvement is the cleanliness of the facility," said Lt. Col. Teresa Millwater, 332nd EMDG CASF chief nurse. "Patients who are injured are at higher risk for infection. Preventing infections will be easier, because there will be less dust and we have indoor hand-wash-

ing capabilities."

In addition, the layout is friendlier for caring for patients.

The work environment is better here because of the arrangement and central location of patient care items, Colonel Millwater said. "With the bay design, we have eyes on our patients from the nurse's station, which we did not have before."

Moving from the old CASF to the new one took a large team effort.

"It took every bit of energy and sweat we had to get this place to come together," said Staff Sgt. Wilsondo Alteus, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group medical technician. "We did the move in two days and it was worth it because this will improve patient care."

Colonel Powell praised the Airmen who conducted the move for their efforts.

"They persevered through rain and mud, carrying weapons and wearing body armor as they moved their entire operation and still managed to care for patients and launched two missions without missing a step," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

**OVER NEVADA** — An F/A-22 Raptor from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., heads out for an operational test mission. The Raptor recently finished avionics engineering manufacturing development testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., pushing the aircraft one step closer to taking its place as the premiere weapon system of the U.S. Air Force.

## Air Force declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required.

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," said Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander. The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.; and deployability here.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today," General Keys said. "Now that

we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

"As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," General Keys said.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing here.

The squadron's current combat deployment capability with the F-22A is a 12-ship package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

*(Editors note: Article courtesy of Air Force Print News.)*





Photos by Army Sgt. Dallas Walker

**Army and Air Force personnel unload a patient from a medevac helicopter at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base. Service members who are wounded in Iraq and need to be medevaced for care come through the AFTH.**

## Extraordinary care packed in ordinary tents

By Army Sgt. **Dallas Walker**  
101st Airborne Division Public Affairs

In a sea of tents and trailers on Balad Air Base in northern Iraq, shrapnel is being surgically removed from a limb, medics are racing to stop someone from bleeding to death and another life is being saved from wounds inflicted on the battlefield.

It is that sea of tents which houses the Air Force Theater Hospital, where service members and civilians get the most advanced medical care possible in a combat zone.

Run by the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, the hospital offers both trauma and specialized medical care for people throughout Iraq and serves as the theater aeromedical evacuation support hub.

"If you arrive here alive, you have about a 96 percent chance of leaving here alive," said Col. (Dr.) Elisha Powell, 332nd EMDG commander.

The availability of specialized care at the hospital is like nothing seen in a combat zone in the past, making it easier to save lives, Colonel Powell said.

"What makes this hospital so successful in Iraq is that we push technology so far forward," he said. "We've never pushed specialties this far onto the battlefield before."

The hospital boasts a staff of surgeons that specialize in procedures on the brain, heart, bones and soft tissue. It has six operating rooms and nearly everything a standard hospital has, from a pharmacy and x-ray lab to a nutritionist — all in the heart of a combat zone.

Bringing medical care to the battlefield increases a injured person's chance for survival, Colonel Powell said. Although, he does not credit the hospital as being solely responsible for saving lives.

### First line care

"Medics and what they do, basic and advanced first aid, is where life saving begins," he said.

The survival of a combat casualty depends largely on the first echelon of medical care. The most important aspect of that care is stopping the bleeding.

"The number one cause of preventable death in Iraq is exsanguination — bleeding out," Colonel Powell said. "If Soldiers don't stop the bleeding and use the tourniquets put in their first aid kit, then [the casualty] probably won't make it to us."

### Dust off — Arriving at the hospital

The sound of medevac pilots calling in their status echoes as

## AFTH, from Page 7

Army and Air Force medics in the patient administration office of the hospital prepare for their landing — the crucial first minutes of a casualty's arrival at the hospital. Most of the casualties treated at the hospital are brought in on a medevac flight.

"I give all the credit in the world to the flight medics," said Staff Sgt. Jalkennen Joseph, 332nd EMDG emergency room medic. "I've never seen anyone perform their job above and beyond like they do. They do things you only see in movies or read about in books. They do it on a daily basis and they do it well."

The medevac crews try to get casualties to the hospital within the "golden hour" — the first 60 minutes after injury.

"Getting patients here quickly, keeping them warm and stopping the bleeding are key to life saving in trauma," Colonel Powell said.

Within minutes of landing on the hospital helipad, the medevac crew and hospital staff take the casualty to the emergency room.

### The ER

"This is [the casualty's] first stop in the hospital," Sergeant Joseph said. "Our job is to stabilize the patient. We check the ABCs. We check their airway, we check to see if they are bleeding and we check their circulation."

Doctors assess the casualty in the emergency room to determine the appropriate course of action, Sergeant Joseph said.

### Next stop ...

The hospital staff prides themselves on rapid care — stabilizing patients and getting them out of the hospital.

"If a patient requires surgery to survive, it will be done here," Sergeant Joseph said. "Most of the patients we care for don't even know they were here. Most of them are severely injured and unconscious. We stabilize them and send them to [Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in] Germany as quickly as possible."

Patients stay at the theater hospital the shortest amount of time possible, Colonel Powell said. The goal is to perform whatever measures necessary to save their life and send them to a facility geared toward long-term care.

### The patient

The hospital provides care and treatment to anyone wounded in combat. More U.S. Army Soldiers are treated than anyone else and Coalition Forces make up 60 percent of the patient load.

The remaining 40 percent of patients seen at the hospital are local nationals, terrorists and detainees injured during combat.

"We give [Iraqis] the same medical care as anyone else," Colonel Powell said. "We're not military police, we're not [military intelligence], we are medics. Detainees get the same health-care as the Soldiers, as the Iraqi Police, as the Iraqi Army. Our job is to provide the highest standard of medical care."

### The team

The hospital is a mostly U.S. Air Force staff, with support teams from the U.S. Army and Navy as well as the Australian army, navy and air force. There are more than 250 medical personnel assigned to the theater hospital.



**Col. Elisha Powell and Col. Jack Ingari, both from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, operate on a Soldier from the 101st Airborne Division after an improvised explosive device attack injured him. Both are orthopedic surgeons at the Air Force Theater Hospital which treats U.S. and Iraqi forces, as well as local nationals.**

"We have all really clicked working together," Sergeant Joseph said. "We run this place smoothly, doing the same mission. We live by the hospital motto, 'One team. One mission.'"

A majority of the U.S. Air Force personnel assigned to the theater hospital, including Powell and Joseph, come from Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio — one of only two military hospitals that treat civilian trauma patients.

"People here are selfless and go out and do their job," Sergeant Joseph said. "Most of the people we treat got injured serving their country."

In the sea of tents, another life is being saved by a hard-working medic or an experienced surgeon with the best combat medical care available in Iraq.

"It's an honor to be able to care for the wounded out here," Sergeant Joseph said. "It's a lifetime experience. I can't stress enough, it's what we are proud and happy to do."



**Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne, joins members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base for dinner Sunday. Secretary Wynne visited Balad to meet with the deployed Airmen Dec. 18 and 19.**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chad Watkins

**SECAF, from Page 1**

**PA: What things about today's Air Force strike you as different than when you first served as an officer?**

Secretary Wynne — I think the emphasis on joint interdependence that we have come to appreciate about our Airmen and their interrelationship with their brethren in the Army, the Navy and the Marines. I think one aspect of the joint fight that all of us have to come appreciate is the capabilities that others bring.

**PA: What do you think of how we have supported in-lieu missions such as convoy security, civil engineering and explosive ordnance disposal?**

Secretary Wynne — I think the watchwords in the Air Force have been flexibility and agility. They have approached them enthusiastically and I think they have learned things. With that being said, we don't quest after missions that should be properly borne by our Army (and) Navy. We also understand the need in an emergency and are willing to support. I think the essence of the joint fight is to make sure that you bring your unique capabilities to bear on the joint problem, on the joint warfight.

**PA: Now that you've had a chance to see forward deployed airpower in person, what are your impressions?**

Secretary Wynne — First, my impression is we bring the best equipment we can muster through a wonderful industry partnership. But, without the bravery, persistence and skill of the Airmen manning it, it wouldn't be worth very much. I have seen the partnership and jointness our Airmen have shown and their willingness to contact through this dramatic improvement of warfare and the Rover system and the various pods that our Air Force can carry in order to provide the essence of Airpower to our land forces.

**PA: What are your thoughts on the future of the total force?**

Secretary Wynne — I think the future of the total force is robust. They call it a rainbow but it is really an intermixed force where we borrow airplanes from National Guard, we fly them with other National Guard units, we have Reservists on call and on station; we have active forces that are marvelously interlaced. One of the more promising moments was when I had a National Guardsman stand up at one of the sessions and ask if there are any rules under which he could transfer immediately into the active force because this was the first opportunity he had had to serve with an active unit and he was so impressed with the rest of the Air Force he wanted to switch ... that's the future total force.

**PA: As our Airmen rotate home, after their tour here, how do you want us to carry on the legacy of this deployment?**

Secretary Wynne — What I would take back is a sense of the history that you have lived through, even in the four-month period you've been here, that this is the miracle of Southwest Asia and you have all been part of it. That story has to be told and retold about how the American citizen-soldier has come over and spread democracy in such a faithful way that you can see it on the faces of the majority of people in Iraq and Afghanistan ... their true appreciation. I think you should tell it to the Rotary Clubs, the Kiwanis, the local associations you meet. And don't hesitate when it comes to the 4th of July to remind your fellow citizens that they were all involved and it was through their inspiration we were allowed to do this. The military lessons learned that you learned from doing are so phenomenally different than all the training you could put together so you shouldn't hesitate to pass them on to the next rotation. They want to know how they can do it and how they can do it better than you.



Photos by Army Sgt. Ty Stafford

Army Sgt. Andy Staeven, 181st Transportation Battalion, and Monster Garage star Jesse James examine a motor before it is installed in a modified HMMWV. The team has seven service members working on the project with them.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Jason Gregg, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, inspects the undercarriage of the renovated HMMWV used in the filming of an episode of Monster Garage.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Andrew Briggs, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Monster Garage star Jesse James fine tune the custom engine for the HMMWV rebuild. James provided the engine and signature tires to the construction team.

# Jesse James, Monster Garage team

work with Airmen, Soldiers to modify HMMWV





# Spreading holiday cheer

## Family, friends from home send greetings to Balad Airmen

### Airman 1st Class Nicholas Bolduc

We hope you have a Merry Christmas! We are so proud of what you are doing. We Love you, miss you and can't wait to see you again!

### Holly and Alayla Bolduc

### Airman 1st Class Brian Bradley

Wishing you a very safe and Merry Christmas. Son, we miss you and can't wait 'til your back home. We are very proud of you, keep up the good work.

### Merry Christmas with lots of love always, Dad and Susan Bradley

### Airman 1st Class Brian Bradley

Hey bud it's cuz in-law Robert, Jen and I wanted to wish you warm hugs and a Very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and we hope to see you at Grandmaaaz soon. As your dad say's "GIT-R-DONE" and be safe.

### Robert and Jennifer

### Airman 1st Class Brian Bradley

Just a quick note to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Even though you are thousand miles away, you are in our thoughts and prayers always. We love you very much and wish you were with us at this time of the year and always.

### Aunt Cheryl and Uncle Lee

### Airman 1st Class Matthew Sechler

Although we are separated by thousands of miles this Christmas, remember we love you, miss you and think of you daily. We wish you and your fellow servicemen a Merry Christmas. We are proud of you. Stay safe.

### All our love, Mom, Tom, Erica and Tricia

### Airman 1st Class Scott Snow

We wish you could be home with us for Christmas but you are with us in our hearts. We love and miss you Scotter! Stay safe! Merry Christmas Hon!

### Love, Mom, Mike, Casey and Gramma

### Senior Airman John F. Kelly IV

Holiday Greetings to you John and all at Balad. Wishing you all a safe, Happy Holiday. Thank you for the great job you all are doing. We are proud of you all. Our love and prayers to you.

### Jim and Linda Puckett

### Senior Airman Chip Sutfin

Another year far away, but you are very near



Courtesy photo

**Elijah Woodward, son of Jamie and Senior Airman David Woodward, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, will celebrate his first Christmas this year.**

to us in our hearts and prayers. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year son. We are counting the days until we see you again.

### Love you, Mom, Dad and your sisters

### Senior Airman David Woodward

Thank you for the best Christmas present ever, our son, Elijah. I miss you, I love you, your are my best friend and I am so glad to be your wife. Merry Christmas!

### Jamie Lyn

### Staff Sgt. Leigh Ann Almberg

I hope all is going well. I want to thank you and all who serve with you. You are what makes America great. We are counting the days until your return. Have a Merry Christmas and great New Year. :-)

### Dale Phillip

### Staff Sgt. Leigh Ann Almberg

Wishing you Holiday Greetings. We miss you and can't wait for your arrival back home. Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas.

### Tracy, Dale and Teja

### Staff Sgt. Chris Childs and the men and women serving in Iraq,

During this season of hope and love, we ask

God to give you grace to endure and the peace that passes all understanding. We send you our love and we pray for your safety and your homecoming. We pray protection and provision over your loved ones here at home, as well. In spite of what you may hear from the media, know that we support you fully. You are in our thoughts and prayers everyday and we wait for our joyful reunion. Be blessed, be encouraged, know that you are loved. We couldn't be any prouder of you. Come home soon...

### Always, Mom and Dad

### Staff Sgt. Chris Childs

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his Friends." It is an honor to stand by you, as your wife. You \*ALL\* are making a huge difference in lives. Thank you and Godspeed!

### Love, Denise

### Staff Sgt. Nicholas Grassi

I know that this is a hard time, but it is a hard time for all of us. Briana and I miss you and love you very much and can't wait for you to get home. We wanted to wish you a special Christmas greeting from us, from home. Always know that you are loved and thought about.

### Love Always, Amanda and Briana Grassi

### Staff Sgt. Nicholas Grassi

Nick, wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas. We love you so much. Christmas will not be complete until you come home. We will celebrate together when you get home. We are so proud of you and what you are doing and have accomplished. Continue to be safe, take one day at a time and come home soon. We love you.

### Mom, Dad, Derek and Aaron

### Staff Sgt. Joe Husted

To my wonderful husband, even though we are miles apart, you have never been closer to my heart. Every day that passes by, I can see you when I close my eyes. But now our time is almost done and in the end our love has won. I hope you feel the love I send and that it helps you get through to the end. I love you Joey!

### Love, Jen



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Rachael and Mackenzie Arnold, daughters of Kim and Tech. Sgt. Rodney Arnold, 332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron, sing Christmas carols at a school Christmas party.

Greetings, from Page 11

#### Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pierce

We wish you could be here with us for Christmas. But we are so proud of you! You are in our prayers and we cannot wait until the day you return home! Have a Merry Christmas to you and the 729th Air Control Squadron from Hill Air Force Base!

**Love, Ashley and Tyler Pierce**

**Tech. Sgt. Rodney Arnold**

Hey Daddy, we love you and miss you very much. We hope you have a Merry Christmas. We will tell Santa to leave toys here for you to open when you get home, so we can all play with them.

**Love, Rachael, Mackenzie and Mom**

**Tech. Sgt. Rodney Arnold**

Rodney, just want to wish you a Merry Christmas. I know you will probably be working, but we will be thinking about you and be looking forward to your return home.

**Love you, Daddy and Bea**

**Tech. Sgt. Don Bales**

Hey baby, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our house is not a home without you here. I miss you terribly. Not much longer and I will have you back in my arms. I am counting the days. I love you with all my heart.



Courtesy photo

Alayla Bolduc, daughter of Holly and Airman 1st Class Nicholas Bolduc, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, hangs a holiday ornament on their Christmas tree.

**Tiffany Bales**

**Tech. Sgt. Jason Kretschmer**

We want to wish my brother-in-law and Uncle Jason a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Can't wait to see you next year! We miss you! We love you very much!

**Terry, Blair, Allison, Jamie, Blair and Katie**

**Chief Master Sgt. William Cribbs, Master Sgt. Thomas, Tech. Sgt. Nancy Gran, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Bledsaw, Tech. Sgt. Raymond Freeman, Tech. Sgt. James Begley and Staff Sgt. Julio Vasquez,**

A very merry Christmas and happy new year is sent to all of you and hoping to see you all shortly.

**Master Sgt. Paul Beede, 152nd Logistical Readiness Squadron**

**Capt. John Gibbs**

Merry Christmas Johnny! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. I miss you.

**Love, Justin Pflipsen**

**Capt. John Gibbs**

Merry Christmas Johnny! I'll save you some snow! :) I can't wait until you get home! Love you and miss you! Bye! bye!

**Taylor Pflipsen :)**

**Capt. John Gibbs**

Hey Bro — Just wanted to wish you a Very Merry Christmas. We'll be thinking of you as always! Can't wait to have you home!

**Love and miss you lots, Pam Gibbs**

**(your favorite sister)**

**Capt. Patricia Robertson**

Baby, I'm so proud of you and want to wish you a Merry Christmas. The boys and I miss you terribly; stay safe and know you and everyone there are in our prayers. Kisses!

**Randy Robertson, (Ret.) Senior Master Sgt.**

**The troops**

Our family would like to thank our Troops and wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are proud to be Americans and we support you without reservations. We pray for your safety and a speedy return home. Thank you again!

**The Sutfin Family**

**732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron/DET-15 Team**

Wishing you peace and happiness during the holidays. May His love fill your heart this Christmas and extend throughout the New Year.

**Sheila Gibbs**

**To the men and women of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing**

Thank you for all you do. Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers every single day, especially during this holiday season. From our homes to all of you. Merry Christmas.

**Teresa Clark and Sharon Gorenc**



# Enjoy each day

## Slow down for the small things, instead of waiting for big events

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) **David Fitz-Patrick**  
332nd AEW Wing Chaplain

If you're anything like me you probably spend the majority of your time waiting for something else to happen to you. What I mean is, I often find myself in a particular situation, with certain people, doing certain things, but I'm waiting for that to end so that someone else or something else can happen in my life.

I believe such experiences occur in all of our lives, and under many guises — we wait for the end of our deployment, for the end of a day at work, for a friend to visit, or for a "pin on" date to arrive. Sometimes our impatience for a future event might run even deeper, though, as we anticipate a bigger change in our life — someone new to fall in love with, a new job, getting married, or maybe the birth of a child. I think it's a normal part of human nature to constantly be waiting for something in the future to reach us now.

I daresay most of us treat holidays or at least the symbols associated with holidays the same way. We look forward to the celebration so much that we wish away the waiting and preparation time. That may be even truer with religious holidays like Christmas or Hanukkah. We want to set up the Christmas tree or the menorah as soon as we've "taken care of" Thanksgiving. And by the time the actual holiday arrives, we're ready to move on to the next holiday, whether it is New Year's, Valentine's or St Patrick's Day.

Religious holidays are a wonderful time to relive past experiences in a meaningful way with family and friends. Hopefully, we don't let the fraternity completely overshadow the original event being remembered. Because whether it is the birth of

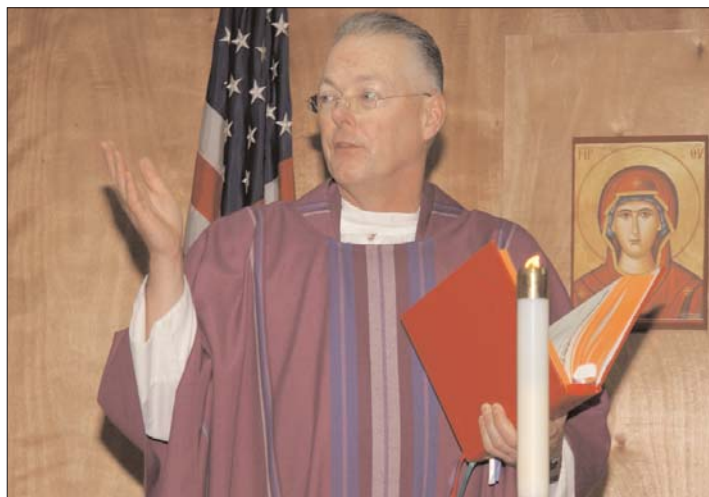


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Fitz-Patrick, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, conducts Mass.**

Jesus, the mystery of the lamps burning in the temple or other religious celebrations at this time of year, those events are not simply brief miracles that happened one moment in time; rather, they are revelations about human life. Those events herald the arrival of the divine into the human. Each intensifies the message found in the book of Genesis — that we are created in the image of God.

Religious holidays confirm our belief in the reality of God touching us, and loving us so much that we come to understand God's love for us as a condition, a promise and a destiny that never leaves us. It is always silently speaking to us about our life.

This year, being deployed to Balad means there won't be so much of the normal holiday activity to distract us from recalling the real meaning behind the holidays. Hopefully, these holidays, or holy days, will allow us an opportunity to reflect on their true meaning, and not simply wish that the next holiday were here.

Happy holidays!

### BALAD AIR BASE

## UNIFORM TIPS

**While in physical training gear female hair must be neat and is not allowed to hang loose below the collar; long hair must be tied back. When tied up in a pony tail, hair may extend below the collar. Pig tails are not authorized. For additional guidelines on female hair in PT gear see 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards] section three.**

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN  
Sundays and Wednesdays  
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays  
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel  
Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626"

Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

## Know what this is?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo was first identified by Staff Sgt. Chul Lee, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, as a string of Christmas lights.

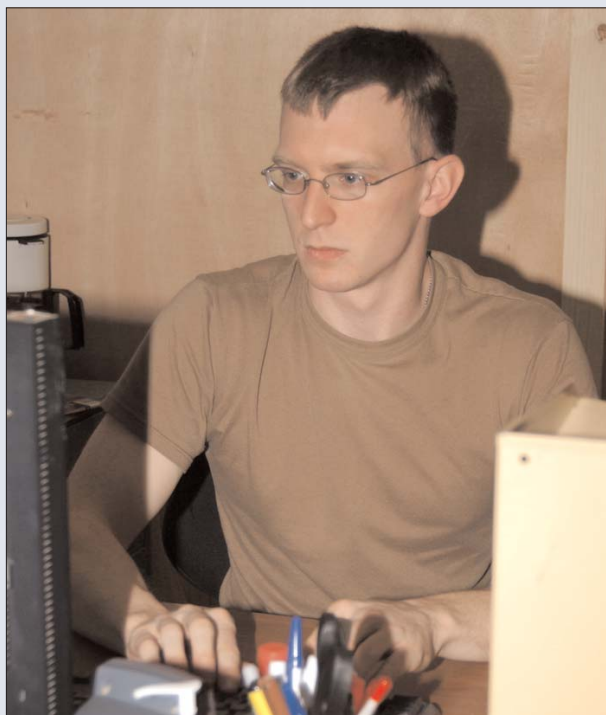


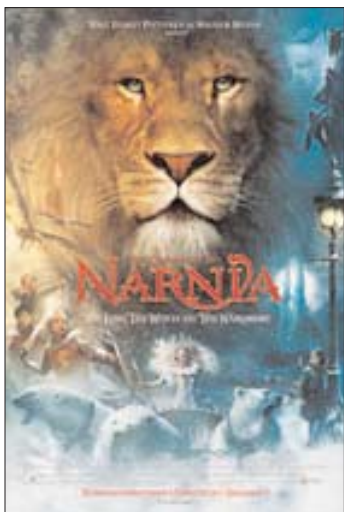
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

## Silent Heroes

Senior Airman Chad Biro, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, is this week's "Silent Hero." He was chosen because he meets every challenge head on and portrays a positive attitude with impeccable bearing and behavior, said Chief Master Sgt. Layton Clark, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit  
6 p.m. - Domino  
9 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (*Premiere showing*)  
Midnight - The Chronicles of Narnia

### Saturday, Dec. 24

3 p.m. - Into the Blue  
6 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia  
9 p.m. - History of Violence

### Sunday, Dec. 25

3 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia  
6 p.m. - Wallace & Gromit

9 p.m. - Domino

### Monday, Dec. 26

3 p.m. - History of Violence  
6 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia  
9 p.m. - Two for the Money

### Tuesday, Dec. 27

3 p.m. - Wallace & Gromit  
6 p.m. - Domino  
9 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia

### Wednesday, Dec. 28

3 p.m. - Domino  
6 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia  
9 p.m. - Into the Blue

### Thursday, Dec. 29

3 p.m. - The Chronicles of Narnia  
6 p.m. - History of Violence  
9 p.m. - Lord of War

